

Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Newsletter and Issues Workbook

Comprehensive Conservation Planning

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) is starting work on a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge. The plan will establish management goals and objectives for all refuge programs over the next 15 years. Wildlife, habitat, land protection, wilderness management, and visitor services programs will all be evaluated during the planning process.

This planning project provides a unique opportunity for the Service to involve all of those interested in the long-term management of the refuge. You can play a significant role in the development of this far-reaching plan!



USFWS

American woodcock

Who will be involved in developing the plan?

Our local refuge staff, headquartered in Baring, Maine, will lead the effort with assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Northeast Regional Office. We will invite other Service experts, as well as representatives from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and Native American Tribal governments in Maine, to serve on our core planning team.

We also intend to engage local residents and community leaders in discussing ways the refuge could become an integral part of the community. Below is a list of forums we will use. Do you have any other suggestions for reaching out to the community?

- Hold open houses
- Develop informational newsletters
- Write feature articles
- Participate in civic and professional group events
- Give presentations at community meetings
- Hold working group sessions and technical expert meetings
- Continue partnerships

Want to get involved?

Help us evaluate current management, propose future desired conditions for wildlife and habitats, plan the future of our public use programs, and identify other important refuge issues. Please start by completing and returning this workbook with your contact information.

We hope you will also consider participating in our March open house (see page 2). In addition, you are welcome to contact us at any time.



Planning Newsletter

Upcoming Open House

Date: Saturday, March 3, 2007

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Location: Washington County
Community College
St. Croix Room
Calais, ME

Schedule:

1:00 - 1:30 pm - Displays & Staff on-hand
1:30 - 2:00 pm - Presentation
2:00 - 3:00 pm - Question & Answer, Discussion Period

The facility is fully accessible.

What should I know about Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge?

The 33,729-acre Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) lies within the farthest reaches of Downeast Maine, a region of rocky coastline, dense spruce-fir and northern hardwood forests, extensive beaver flowages, clear lakes and ponds, and meandering streams intermixed with blueberry barrens, cleared fields, and young forests. The Refuge was established in 1937 to protect American woodcock and other migratory birds, endangered species, and other wildlife. It provides quality breeding, migration and resting habitat for many species of waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, and songbirds. Bald eagle and osprey nest on the Refuge.

Wetlands are managed to provide breeding habitat for American black duck and other waterfowl and waterbirds. This Refuge is the only unit within the National Wildlife Refuge System that devotes a major portion of its management effort to research and demonstration of habitat management techniques that benefit American woodcock. Uplands also are actively managed to benefit a wide variety of wildlife including migratory songbirds, ruffed grouse and moose.

The Refuge has 18 miles of rocky shoreline along Denny's and Whiting Bays and 7 miles of shoreline on Meddybemps Lake. Portions of both the Baring and Edmunds divisions (4,466 acres) are within the Denny's River Watershed which is a high priority river for Atlantic salmon recovery.

Approximately one-third of the Refuge is designated as federal wilderness. The two Wilderness Areas, one in each division, are part of the National Wilderness Preservation System and managed for naturalness and primitive qualities.

While wildlife and habitat conservation come first on refuges, excellent wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, interpretation, hunting, and fishing opportunities can be enjoyed on the refuge. Moosehorn has 64.5 miles of dirt roads that are open to hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding and snowshoeing. Two observation decks and two self-guided interpretive trails (Woodcock Trail and Raven Trail) give insight into the Refuge's wildlife and habitat management programs. Refuge staff offer programs at various times during the year, including the Children's Fishing Derby in June and National Wildlife Refuge Week in October. Opportunities for hunting begin in September, coinciding with State of Maine hunting seasons. Fishing is a popular sport both during summer and winter; excellent brook trout, smallmouth bass and pickerel waters are found throughout the refuge.

The headquarter's office is located three miles south from the junction of U.S. Route 1 on Charlotte Road and is open from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Please visit or contact the refuge for additional information.



Refuge Sign

About the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, part of the Department of the Interior, is the principle federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing the nation's fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.

The Service also manages the National Wildlife Refuge System, the world's largest collection of lands set aside specifically for the protection of fish and wildlife populations and habitats. Refuges in all 50 states provide important habitats for native plants and animals, facilitating the preservation of threatened or endangered species. Refuges also offer a wide variety of wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities, and many have visitor facilities, interpretive trails, and environmental education programs.



Black bears are common on the refuge



Refuge visitor engaging in wildlife observation

Issues Workbook



A scene from one of the Refuge's three lakes/USFWS

Let's get started...

Participation by you and other interested individuals and groups is critical to the success of this planning process. At this early stage, we are seeking your input via our open house and this Issues Workbook. Our intent is to hear directly from folks like you - to learn how you feel about the refuge, identify any issues or concerns you might have, and discuss your ideas for getting things done.

The following workbook will be available at our open house and on our website, and will be shared with refuge visitors, neighbors, and partners who may not be able to attend the meetings. Your response to the questions in this workbook will help us understand your interest in the refuge and provide a basis for comparing your comments with others we receive. It will also help us identify issues and develop goals and objectives.

Please do not feel constrained by the following questions. You are free to add additional comments in the spaces provided, send us a separate letter, give us a call, email or write us at the address on page 9.



Erecting the Bald Eagle nest platform in partnership with EMEC/USFWS

Questions on your refuge experience

1. Approximately, how many days do you visit the refuge each year?

_____ days per year

2. What activities have you participated in while visiting the refuge over the past year? (Please check all that apply).

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Watching | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing/Kayaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross County Skiing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/Nature Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting | <input type="checkbox"/> Guided Interpretive tours |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature/Wildlife Viewing | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling | <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback Riding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Furbearer Trapping | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |



Hunting is a popular activity on the refuge/USFWS

Which activity is the most important reason for your visit to Moosehorn Refuge?

Issues Workbook



*One of the Refuge's many wetlands/
USFWS*

2. What areas of the refuge do you usually visit?

Baring Division

- ☐ Bald eagle observation deck
- ☐ Nature trails
- ☐ Vose Pond
- ☐ Wilderness area
(includes Bearce Lake)
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Edmunds Division

- ☐ Nature trails
- ☐ Wilderness area
- ☐ Coastal shoreline
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

3. Have you participated in any refuge-sponsored events or activities? If so, please check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail hikes | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Fishing Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird walks | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish and wildlife clinic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Walks and presentations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoe walks | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest wildlife management
tours and presentation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

4. What do you value most about your visits to Moosehorn Refuge?



Bald Eagle/USFWS

Questions on natural resources conservation

Moosehorn Refuge provides a wide diversity of habitats for forest, wetland, and marine coastal migratory birds, resident fish and wildlife, and threatened and endangered species. We maintain water levels on numerous impounded wetlands to provide brood-rearing habitat for waterfowl and waterbirds. Our active forest management program has provided a unique opportunity to demonstrate how other refuges, or large and small landowners, can create habitats for wildlife that depend on young or "early successional" forests. Our CCP will explore additional opportunities to conserve, protect, and enhance these and other habitats for the species dependent on them.

5. What do you consider to be the most important conservation problem facing Downeast Maine?

6. Do you feel Moosehorn Refuge has a role to play in resolving this problem?



*Dram Island in Cobscook Bay/
USFWS*

Issues Workbook



Spruce grouse/USFWS

7. In your opinion, which wildlife species or habitats should be a management priority for Moosehorn Refuge?

8. In your opinion, should the Service pursue the following activities in Downeast Maine as part of their mission to conserve wildlife and habitats? (Please check up to 3 choices)

- ☐ fee purchase of important wildlife habitats from willing sellers at market value
- ☐ acquiring conservation easements from willing sellers; e.g. purchasing development rights
- ☐ greater involvement with conservation groups
- ☐ conducting increased environmental education and outreach programs
- ☐ pursuing habitat restoration partnerships with private landowners
- ☐ no active involvement
- ☐ other (please specify)

9. How do you feel about the Service acquiring land in fee from willing sellers at fair market value in the Downeast Maine area? (please circle one)

1
Not at all
acceptable

2

3

4

5
Very
acceptable

Comments?



Ecointern banding resident Canada geese/ USFWS

10. Are any of the following natural resource issues a concern to you in Downeast Maine? If so, please rank your top three choices (1=highest concern, 3=lowest concern of your three choices).

- ☐ the development and fragmentation of habitats
- ☐ invasion of exotic plant and animal species
- ☐ increased recreational use in sensitive habitat areas
- ☐ degradation of water quality
- ☐ lack of active habitat restoration (e.g. wetlands restoration, forest health improvements)
- ☐ other issues (please specify)

Issues Workbook



Forest management to benefit woodcock and other early-successional forest species/USFWS

11. If possible, please provide additional details on why you selected the issues in Question #10. In particular, we would be interested to know specific locations of concern.

12. Please include here any additional thoughts you have on conserving fish and wildlife habitats in Downeast Maine that may not be captured in our questions.

Questions on recreation and public access



Youth Conservation Corps learning to band waterfowl/USFWS

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 identifies six priority wildlife-dependent public uses on national wildlife refuges: environmental education, interpretation, fishing, hunting, wildlife observation and photography. The Act also stipulates these six uses are to receive “enhanced consideration” while developing CCP’s. These and other public uses are permitted only after they are determined to be “compatible” with the purpose(s) for which a refuge was established. In evaluating compatibility, the Refuge Manager considers:

- anticipated impacts to natural resources;
- consistency with laws, regulations, policies, and existing management plans;
- safety; and,
- budget, staffing, and facility needs.

The Refuge is open to all six priority public uses. There are 64.5 miles of dirt roads open on the Refuge for wildlife observation and photography. The Refuge is open to hunting and many streams are open to fishing. Volunteers help staff the Welcome Center and assist with environmental education and interpretation programs. This planning process will evaluate these and other opportunities for compatible, priority public uses on the refuge.

Issues Workbook

13. For each activity listed in the middle column, please tell us how important that activity is to you when visiting Moosehorn Refuge. Then tell us how satisfied you are with the way the Refuge is managing each activity.

Importance					Satisfaction				
Not at all important	Somewhat important	Moderately important	Very important		Not at all satisfied	Slightly satisfied	No opinion/unsure	Satisfied	Highly Satisfied
1	2	3	4	Hiking/walking trails for wildlife viewing opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Outdoor education activities	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Access for people with disabilities	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Visitor information/orientation center	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Big game hunting opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Small game hunting opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Upland gamebird hunting opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Waterfowl hunting opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Fishing opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Kiosks or signs with information about the refuge or its wildlife	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Viewing areas with information about different wildlife habitats	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Directional signs for refuge	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Access for canoes and kayaks	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Educational information on historical sites	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Guided bird walks, lectures, presentations	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Website with information about the refuge and its activities	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Opportunity to interact with refuge staff	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Horseback trails	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Bicycle trails	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Cross country ski trails	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	Other services (please specify) _____	1	2	3	4	5

14. We are interested in the ways community residents engage in local or regional natural resource or environmental issues. Please indicate which of the activities you have participated in within the last 5 years.

Participation	Yes	No
1. Attending a public hearing or meeting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Contacting or writing a state/federal agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Contacting or writing a U.S. senator, member of congress, or state legislator	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Writing a letter to the editor of a newspaper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Joining a interest group (such as an environmental, sportsman's, animal rights, agriculture, or resource use organization)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. If YES, Please list organization (s) _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Leading an interest group (such as an environmental, sportsman's, animal rights, agriculture, or resource use organization)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Issues Workbook



Moose/Bill Silliker

15. Are there activities or services that you think should be allowed at Moosehorn Refuge that currently are not allowed?

☐ No ☐ Yes (If yes, please list these activities)

16. Are there activities or services that you think should not be allowed at Moosehorn Refuge that currently are allowed?

☐ No ☐ Yes (If yes, please list these activities)



Refuge wilderness areas provide opportunities for solitude/USFWS

17. Please include here any additional comments on recreation, education, and public access.

18. Where did you obtain this workbook? (This will help us determine the most effective places to distribute these in the future.)

Mail Issues Workbooks to:

Nancy McGarigal, Refuge Planner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035

Workbooks may also be mailed to, or
dropped-off at the refuge office.

For Additional Information

Contact the refuge:

Moosehorn NWR
103 Headquarters Rd., Suite 1
Baring, ME 04694

Phone: 207/ 454 - 7161
Fax: 207/ 454 - 2550

E-mail: fw5rw_mhnwr@fws.gov
Website: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/moosehorn>

That's it! Thank you for your time.

Now that you are done, please mail us your responses by March 31, 2007 . We will summarize these comments and those received from the open house in our next newsletter.

If you wish to receive future "Planning Updates" about the Moosehorn Refuge comprehensive conservation planning process, please fill in the appropriate information below and return it with your responses to our workbook.

_____ (Yes) Keep me on your mailing list/add me to your mailing list

_____ (No) Take me off your mailing list.

Name: _____
(Please Print Legibly)

Address: _____

City: _____

State _____ Zip Code: _____



*Youth Conservation Corps
Program/USFWS*

If you are acting in an official capacity as the representative of an organization, please complete the following two items.

Organization: _____

Title: _____

IMPORTANT: Please note that names on the CCP mailing list become part of the public record for this project. The Service must release names only, if requested, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act of 1974. To retain you on our mailing list we need your permission. Please sign below.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Federal Relay Service for the deaf or hard of hearing:

1 800/877-8339

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

February 2007



Division of Planning
Attn: Nancy McGarigal
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035